

# Governor's State Trails Council Meeting Minutes - FINAL

Monday, April 12, 2004

Governor's Conference Room, 116 East State Capitol, Madison, WI.

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Council Members present: Mike McFadzen, Ken Carpenter, Donald Kirn, David Phillips, Tom Huber, Ramsey Lee, and Tom Thornton by phone.

Council Members absent: Chris Kegel and Connie Loden

DNR staff present: Mike Willman, Peter Biermeier, Brigit Brown, Linda Netzer, Agela Jacobs were there the entire meeting; Scott Hassett, Laurie Osterndorf, Rick Henneger, Eric Ebersberger, John Nolasco were there for a portion of

Others present: Luanna Schneider, Pat Jacobosky, Karen Kroll, Ron and Patty Anderson, Randy Harden, Rob McConnell, Garfield and Sigrid Brown, Fred Szarka, Tom Gilbert and Pam Schuller

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE	KEY POINTS	OUTCOMES NEXT STEPS, ASSIGNMENTS
9:00 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Welcome and introductions	Mike McFadzen welcomed everyone and introduced guests.	
9:15 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Agenda repair and Approval of January meeting minutes	Agenda passed. Minutes passed.	
9:30 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Chair Report: Marr resolution, protocol for meeting, Statewide Forest Plan	Mike McFadzen informed Council that Greg Marr, past editor of Silent Sports magazine, received Governor's Proclamation for his support of state trails and the silent sports movement. Mike asked for a motion to recognize past State Trail Council members Jeff Butson, Joe Parr and Bill Pfaff for their contributions by giving them a plaque. Motion was moved (Tom Huber) and seconded (Dave Phillips). Passed unanimously. State Trails Council is now on the DNR Parks Web site at <a href="http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/council">www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/council</a> . Send a brief intro including who you represent to Brigit so that can be added. The DNR Secretary and a few representatives will be at the meeting for lunch. Council members will have an opportunity to ask questions prior to briefing from Governor Doyle. Brigit gave a handout of last year's briefing.	Send a brief intro of yourself and who you represent to Brigit Brown for the State Trails Council link on the DNR Parks Web site within the next couple weeks.
9:45 a.m.	Mike Willman, Director, WiDNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Peter Biermeier, WiDNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation	DNR Report: Bureau Director position update, Code 45 Revisions, budget reductions, Ice Age Reserve Unit funding, ATV committee update	Mike Willman, Acting Director of Wisconsin State Parks, introduced himself to the Council. He's been in this position for one year. The deadline for applying for the director position is April 23. Interviews will be scheduled in May, with an appointment planned for June. Budget update: Currently in 03-05 fiscal year, have had significant reductions--\$1.5 million and 6 positions. Now working on 05-07 budget preparing for some reductions as well as new initiatives. Guidance from the Governor's office will come out in May. Ice Age Reserve Unit funding was not included in the federal budget, this amounts to \$800,000. Tom Gilbert, National Park Service, went to Washington, D.C., and met with our Congressional Delegation to support the funding of the Ice Age Reserve units. Tom Gilbert indicated this was an intentional cut. The President indicated this funding was terminated in lieu of higher priorities. In talking with budget people in Washington, this money is expected to be restored.	(cont'd) The Trails Management Team has been given the assignment of preparing a document for the equitable distribution of funds for state trail operation. Peter Biermeier informed the Council that the Adm.Code 45 process is underway and there was discussion on proposed changes. Check our Web site for hearing dates around the state. There are four statewide plans underway: Forestry, Land Legacy, Wildlife, and SCORP. SCORP will inventory recreation facilities in state and survey recreational demand. Dave Phillips is the Council's representative working with Jeff Prey on SCORP. Dave was asked to give an update at the STC July meeting. Brigit indicated the 1st internal draft of the ATV policy is completed and Chapter 30, Design Standards, is nearly complete. When completed, it will be available to other entities. Brigit handed out a factsheet on WI State Trails and discussed county partnerships and the importance of trail linkage to communities. She is working on a column to show user groups. State trail maps are on the DNR internet.

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10:30 a.m.	Tom Gilbert, Superintendent, Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails	National Scenic Trails Use Issues	The Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail were authorized by the Legislature in 1968 as National Scenic Trails. There are only eight in the country and they are managed primarily for hiking and backpacking. The National Park Service has no authority to forbid or authorize use of private or county-owned land. Although the trails are managed as foot trails, there are connecting segments authorized for snowmobile use. When completed, there will be a thousand miles of trail; 500 are open. Legislation states "permanently protecting" to make our efforts permanent and stable. The Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation has succeeded in bringing in land acquisition money to buy an interpretive site. NPS bought land near Cross Plains for this purpose. DNR grant money also assists with acquisition efforts. DNR staff involved in this process are: Doug Haag, Dick Steffes, Peter Biermeier and Brigit Brown.	(cont'd) The Get Outdoors Act - Is a \$3 billion act that provides a trust fund that provides park and recreation areas a permanent source of matching funds; a senate bill is forthcoming. Impetus to combat obesity by providing more recreation facilities, Representative George Miller is co-sponsor of the house bill. Lastly, there is concern expressed by some user groups that the IAT is displacing opportunities for their recreational activity. The Ice Age Trail has not displaced any permanent legal rights to enjoy an outdoor recreation activity. A cooperative effort is being made to work with partners to understand issues. Tom introduced Fred Sarka, Manager, North Country Scenic Trail and Pam Schuller, Manager, Ice Age National Scenic Trail.
11:00 a.m.	Rick Henneger, WiDNR Legal Services	Discussion of rail abandonment and acquisition, transmission line location	Rick introduced Eric Ebersberger, DNR attorney who will assume real estate matters after Rick retires; and John Nolasco, a 2nd year law student interning with the DNR. The Bearskin Trail is not the best place to try and test the Mauler decision. Instead, the Cattail Trail, Turtle Lake to Comstock section currently owned by CenturyTel. Contact has been made with Centurytel to consolidate ownership. Dick Steffes, DNR, working on acquisition process. We view this as our vanguard to determine whether this new ruling will be applicable in other cases where there are federal grants. Issue--transmission line siting bill, Act 89. Brigit distributed handout. There has been concern about siting transmission lines along recreational trails and the impact it might have on users. Recreational trails are listed as a 3rd priority under section 112, sub 6 C. Department has prepared a legal position statement and forwarded it to the Public Service Commission asking their attorneys to review.	(continued) DNR has taken a very conservative position so the placement of these lines would not impact adversely the experience of the user. DNR legal staff also contacted legislators that were involved to make sure their understanding was accurate. After discussion, Rick asked the Council to defer any action until the DNR and PSC have firmed up their position and then adopt a resolution in support or opposition. Rick will provide the STC a written position of the two state agencies before the Council's July meeting. The Council wil revisit this issue at their July meeting and ask that Rick Henneger and a representative of the PSC attend meeting. Mike McFadzen introduced Laurie Osterndorf, Administrator for the Division of Land, DNR, and thanked her for her interest in attending. At this time, Angela Jacobs, DNR Forestry Division, distributed copies of the Statewide Forestry Plan. Various master plans statewide are being updated. The DNR has a policy to notify user groups and local clubs when this process is underway. Dave Phillips indicated he would like to see a representative for water trails on the Council. This item will be discussed later in the agenda.
12:00 p.m.		Lunch. Members of Assembly Natural Resources and Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Members invited to lunch at 12:15 p.m., with briefing on trail issues at 12:30 p.m.	Representative Scott Gunderson; Representative Spencer Black; and Senator Neal Kedzie joined the Council for lunch.	
12:30 p.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Briefing of Assembly Natural Resources and Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Members	Mike McFadzen gave a briefing of the responsibilities of the State Trails Council working consultatively with the DNR in planning, acquisition, and development of state trails and representing trail users in the state. It provides the framework and direction for administering RTC grant funds which were over \$1 million last year. Some accomplishments include developing a tool to award the RTC grant funds; played an integral role in the development of the Wisconsin Strategic Trails Plan and the State Trails Network Plan; and supported federal legislation that provides funding for acquisition, development and management of state trails. Is an advocate of public/private cooperation for funding and management of state trails. Act as an independent forum for finding solutions to different trail problems for both motorized and non-motorized use. Challenges for 2004 fall into three main categories: preservation, funding, and policy.	(cont'd) Sen. Kedzie questioned the process of landowner/public contact--a constituent in Walworth Co. was notified a portion of the IAT was planned to go around Whitewater Lake and through his land without involving him in the planning process. Tom Gilbert responded that there is public planning process, but that didn't happen in Walworth Co. It was a Walworth Co. decision and a letter has been sent to the local planning commission by the NPS to eliminate that loop from the trail. Act 89 language was clarified as to the legislative intent. Dave Phillips addressed the issue of having a water trails representative on the Council. Rep.Gunderson said that a statute change would be necessary, but could be done. He recommended keeping the Council to an odd number. Mike McFadzen asked this be an agenda item for the July STC meeting.

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1:15 p.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Briefing with Governor Doyle, Secretary Hassett	Mike McFadzen gave a briefing of the responsibilities of the State Trails Council, past accomplishments, and challenges that lie ahead. McFadzen praised Governor Doyle for the Greg Marr proclamation, protection of stewardship, general support of trails, and in particular his support of the Ice Age Trail. Dave Phillips addressed the issue of safe trail crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians and if DOT should be creating more safe crossings and if Transportation Enhancement funds could be used more effectively. The Governor said that he prides the administration on the cooperation between agencies on a lot of different areas. Gave Secretary Hassett credit for working closely with other agencies and confident he will work with DOT on this issue. Governor thanked Council for their work and acknowledged the importance of trails to Wisconsin.	At July STC meeting, Tom Huber will give a half-hour presentation on DOT guidelines for trail crossings and the trail enhancement program.
1:45 p.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Meeting with DNR Secretary Scott Hassett regarding trail issues	DNR Secretary Scott Hassett was briefed on earlier discussion of Act 89 and that this issue will again be addressed at the July STC meeting. Secretary Hassett was asked if the Mauler decision will be useful in acquiring more railbeds for trails. Secretary Hassett said that we are looking for the right case, i.e., Turtle Lake to Comstock. The Secretary said that he is a big supporter of trails and that trails are not simply used for recreation, but also for transportation. He would eventually like there to be no trail fees. Mike McFadzen thanked the Secretary for attending.	
2:00 p.m.		Public comment	<b>Ron Anderson</b> , Bayfield County property owner (near Lake Owen), had question on property rights. The county is proposing to put a trail through a parcel of his land that was a former Chicago-Northwestern rail line, using the Mauler decision. Brigit commented that this was NOT a DNR proposal, but a county proposal for snowmobile use. Tom Thornton indicated that at the June 5th county board meeting a process will be established to talk to landowners. <b>Luanna Schneider</b> , WI 4-Wheel Drive Assoc., would like 4-wheel drive users represented accurately in SCORP. There will be a SCORP presentation at the July STC meeting. Has been in contact with Jeff Prey, DNR, to ensure a survey is properly formulated. Luanna introduced Pat Jacobsky, also a member of 4-Wheel Drive Assoc., who discussed 4-wheel drive parks and their liability issue. <b>Pat Anderson</b> , property owner, would like future recreational trail dollars promote physical fitness. <b>Tom Huber</b> , will send Council a brochure on WI Walks, promoting health and safety.	(cont'd) Discussion followed on recreational trail surfaces. Tom suggested the Council member get a copy of a report the DNR wrote on the pros and cons of different trail surfaces.
2:30 p.m.		Other business of the State Trails Council	Next meeting in Horicon on July 12, 10 a.m. First on the agenda will be a briefing for new Council members to include a brief history and responsibilities. Council members asked to send brief introduction to Brigit. Agenda items for next meeting so far include: SCORP, Act 89, Increasing Council Membership, and Trail Crossings. Additional agenda items should be sent to Brigit or Mike. Draft and final minutes will be posted on the Web. Brigit will also post agendas and Council member bios. Mike McFadzen thanked Brigit for all her work putting this complex meeting together.	
2:40 p.m.		Adjourn	Moved to adjourn by Dave Phillips, seconded by Tom Thornton. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.	